

OPENING PRAYER

For a Lent retreat using *Alive in the Word Lent: Season of Transformation*

Leader: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**
[All make the Sign of the Cross.]

As we gather together today during this season of Lent, let us take a few moments of silence to gather our thoughts, settle our minds, and quiet our hearts. [Allow time for silence.]

Reader: **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans**
(Rom 12:1-2, 9-12)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

[Allow several minutes of silence for reflection on the reading.]

Leader: **For what shall we pray today?** [Participants can share prayer intentions.]

For all the prayer intentions we have named, and for those we bring with us in our hearts, we ask the Lord to hear our prayers this day.

Leader: **Now let us pray together:**

All: **Lord Jesus, just as you called your first disciples, you call us. You ask us to give up those things that prevent us from walking with you—the things that keep us focused on ourselves rather than on you and those you ask us to love. May this day help us to change that focus. May this time we spend quieting our own hearts and listening to your voice be for the sake of others—for you, for one another, for our families and communities. Change our hearts this Lent, Lord Jesus. Help us to surrender to you, and make our hearts like yours. Amen.**

Leader: **Lord, I ask your blessing on each person present here. May this be a day of peace, and may we all leave this place assured of your love and transformed by it. Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

[Close with the Sign of the Cross.]

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